NAVAL AIR STATION
NORTH ISLAND

Fact Sheet No. 3 June 1994

This fact sheet will tell you about...

- X The formation of a Naval Air Station (NAS) North Island Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) and opportunities for community involvement.
- X The Installation Restoration (IR) Program at NAS North Island, sources of contamination and sites being investigated.
- X How you can obtain more information.

Navy Establishes Restoration Advisory Board

To increase public involvement opportunities in the Installation Restoration process, NAS North Island is establishing a Restoration Advisory Board. It will serve as a forum for discussion and exchange of information related to ongoing environmental cleanup under the Navy's IR Program. The NAS North Island RAB will provide an opportunity for the community to review cleanup progress, provide input, and participate in a dialogue with decision makers. It is being formed to bring together community members who reflect the diverse interests within the local community and to enhance two-way flow of information and concerns between the community and the Navy. The RAB will allow the community to actively participate in the timely review of base cleanup plans and documents.

Currently, a Technical Review Committee (TRC) focuses exclusively on technical review of the NAS North Island IR Program site documents and plans. However, often only one community member represents issues of concern for the entire local community. The existing TRC will be transitioned into the RAB becoming the focal point for community input and participation in all aspects of NAS North Island IR Program.

Role of RAB Members

RAB members will be asked to meet regularly and review and comment on technical documents and plans relating to the ongoing environmental investigations and cleanup activities at NAS North Island. Members will be expected to serve two-year terms. All RAB meetings will be open to the public. Technical support staff will be available to provide information support and clarification to RAB members.

RAB Membership Applications

RAB membership applications are enclosed with this fact sheet. They will also be available at the RAB kickoff public meeting. For more information on the RAB please contact the individuals listed on the back of this fact sheet.

PUBLIC MEETING

Community members interested in finding out more about the RAB are invited to attend a community meeting sponsored by the Navy.

Wednesday, June 22 - 6:30 p.m.
Coronado Public Library,
Winn Room
Coronado, CA

Introduction/History

This fact sheet is the third in a series that provides an update on the hazardous waste investigation and environmental cleanup activities at NAS North Island. The 2,802-acre complex is located at the northern end of the Silver Strand peninsula that borders the city of Coronado and is surrounded by the Pacific Ocean and San Diego Bay.

NAS North Island was officially commissioned in 1917. Its mission is to provide aviation support services to the fleet, aircraft maintenance, airfield operations, pierside services, and logistics. NAS North Island is the largest aviation industrial complex on the West Coast and home to two aircraft carriers. Approximately 250 aircraft are based at NAS North Island. Maintenance for these aircraft includes preventive maintenance performed by the squadrons. A higher level of services, such as engine overhaul is performed by the Aircraft Intermediate Maintenance Department. The highest level of maintenance is performed by Naval Aviation Depot (NADEP) involving extensive remanufacturing, replacement or modification, and major overhaul to all types of aircraft. Aircraft maintenance and repair generates the largest quantities of hazardous wastes.

Although most operations at NAS North Island began in the 1920s, the largest quantities of hazardous waste were generated after the 1940s. Aircraft maintenance, flight operations, training, and other base activities have generated a variety of hazardous wastes including paints, paint strippers, solvents, cleaners, plating wastes, acids, bases, caustics, used oil, pesticides, incineration residue, polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) fluids, scrap metal, and trash. Past hazardous waste disposal practices, though acceptable at the time, often resulted in what is now considered improper handling and disposal of hazardous materials.

The Navy's IR Program is addressing 12 areas potentially contaminated by past disposal practices. The California Environmental Protection Agency (Cal/EPA) Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) provides the regulatory oversight for the IR Program at NAS North Island.

Current Industrial waste disposal operations comply with the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) Corrective Action Program and all other applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations.

Installation Restoration Program at Naval Air Station North Island

The Installation Restoration Program focuses on the cleanup of contamination from past hazardous waste operations and disposal practices and protecting public health. At NAS North Island, the IR Program is investigating 12 potentially contaminated areas. These areas are being addressed in a manner consistent with the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA) of 1980, the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (SARA) of 1986, and other applicable laws. CERCLA and SARA established a series of programs for the cleanup of hazardous waste disposal and spill sites nationwide. One of these programs, the Defense Environmental Restoration Program (DERP), was enacted by SARA. The IR Program is a component of DERP.

The IR Program process applies a phased approach to site investigations and cleanup. Based on an assessment of information from historical records, aerial photographs, surface and aerial surveys, and personnel interviews, the sites were initially identified. Thereafter, investigation efforts have focused on performing sampling and analysis of soil, groundwater, surface water, and shoreline sediments. These actions are conducted to further determine what types of contaminants are present and to identify specific contaminant levels. Information obtained from field efforts is required for evaluating potential cleanup alternatives.

Description of IR Sites

The following are brief descriptions of the IR sites at NAS North Island. See the site map for specific site locations.

Site 1 - Shoreline Sediments

Site 1 consists of shoreline sediments in the vicinity of 11 storm drain outfalls that are known to have conveyed industrial hazardous wastes to the Pacific Ocean and San Diego Bay between 1917 and 1972. Wastes discharged through these outfalls included caustics, detergents, paint strippers and residues, metal cleaners, solvents, oils, and plating wastes.

Site 2 - Old Spanish Bight Landfill

This site originally consisted of a landfill that ceased operations in 1942. Disposal of solid waste materials from the North Island administrative and industrial operations occurred at Site 2. It is assumed that solid waste materials are interspersed with small quantities of wastes that were disposed of at this site. Hazardous substances disposed of on-site may have included oils, solvents, acids, caustics, paints, metal sludges, and various cleaning chemicals.

Site 3 - Golf Course Chemical Rinse Area

This site consists of an area of approximately 500 square feet located behind the golf course grounds maintenance building. It was used between 1961 and 1980 for disposal of rinse water containing diluted herbicides, pesticides, and fertilizers.

Site 4 - Public Works Salvage Yard

This site consists of approximately 3 acres of unpaved surface. From 1967 through 1976, equipment and materials associated with the Public Works Center, including electrical transformers containing PCB fluids were stored in the area. In 1978, all of the electrical transformers were removed; only one of the transformers was reported to have leaked. In May 1994, a new cleanup technology for removing PCBs from soil was tested at Site 4. (For more information see NAS North Island Fact Sheet No. 2, April 1994).

Site 5 - Golf Course Garbage Disposal Area

From the mid-1940s to 1965, this site operated as the only solid waste disposal site at NAS North Island. In the 1940s, chemical wastes that were not discharged to the drain system were disposed of at this landfill. Wastes were reportedly burned periodically for volume reduction. The site was regraded in the early 1980s during construction of the present golf course. Hazardous materials reported to have been disposed of include oils, solvents, acids, caustics, paints, heavy metal sludges, asbestos, sandblasting residue, and various chemicals.

Site 6 - Heritage Public Works Salvage

This site was used by the Public Works Center to store excess materials from construction projects including electrical transformers containing PCBs. In 1965, storage at Site 6 was terminated. Fill material was imported and sod was planted for the development of recreational facilities and the present-day Seaview Heritage Park.

Site 7 - Building 39 Runoff Catchment Area

Site 7 consists of approximately 15 to 20 acres surrounding Building 39. Past waste disposal practices have included spillage and surface disposal of waste oils and fluids, sandblast grit, solvents, detergents, and other cleaning agents. Fire-fighting training (confined to a concrete pad) was also conducted in the area, which may have used a wide variety of flammable solvents and waste oils. In

addition, Building 39 and the surrounding area have been used for ground support equipment maintenance. Contaminants of concern include petroleum and chlorinated hydrocarbons in soil and groundwater, and metals in soil.

Site 8 - Weapons Center Bombing Range

From 1917 to 1927, prior to the Navy's acquisition of the property, the U.S. Army used the area as an artillery and aerial bombing range. The quantity of unexploded ordnance is unknown; however, no accidental explosions have ever been documented. The potential threat to human health and the environment was deemed insignificant based on the nature of the waste and its location in a high-security area with restricted access. The site has been eliminated from the IR Program site list by the Cal/EPA DTSC.

Site 9 - Chemical Waste Disposal Area

This site operated from the 1940s to the mid-1970s before the Industrial Waste Treatment Plant began operating. It consists of three major waste disposal operations: a shallow pit used for disposal of liquid wastes from portable tanks; four parallel trenches each containing different types of wastes (solvents, caustics, acids, and semisynthetics consisting of ceramic and metallic compounds); and a large unimproved area used for burying drums containing unidentified chemical wastes.

Site 10 - Defense Reutilization and Marketing Office (DRMO)

Site 10 consists of approximately 17 acres where surplus materials related to aircraft operation and maintenance activities were processed. Unusable aircraft were dismantled and reduced to scrap for sale offsite. Prior to the 1970s, an unpaved area was used for destruction of classified electronic components and storing scrap metal, oil and other petroleum products, batteries, and surplus material. Draining of fluids, spills and leakage from batteries, transformers, drums, and other containers contributed to the contamination of the soil.

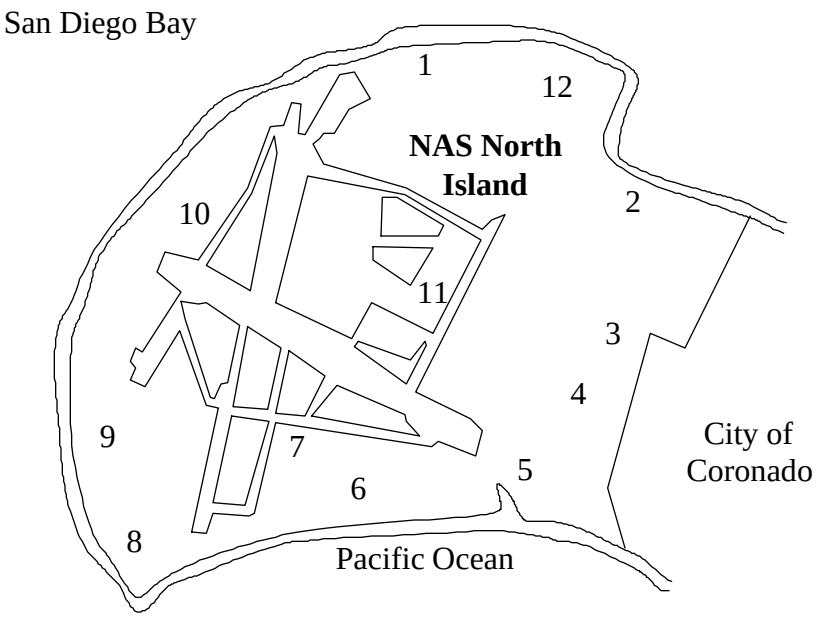
Site 11 - Industrial Waste Treatment Plant (IWTP)

AT the IWTP, 16 industrial waste surface storage impoundments (PVC- or concrete-lined ponds and sludge basins) were an integral part to the processing of nine waste streams containing hazardous materials. The impoundments contained paints, solvents, chromic acids, and other wastes. Their use was phased out between 1985 and 1988 to comply with California law (Toxic Pits Cleanup Act) that required owners of hazardous waste processing and/or storage facilities to cease discharge of hazardous wastes into surface impoundments. Four additional impoundments at the Oily Waste Treatment Plant, which is adjacent to the ITWP, are also no longer in use. Closure plans for all 20 impoundments have been approved by Cal/EPA DTSC. Closure efforts are underway.

Site 12 - Buried Gasoline Supply Pipe Leak Area

In the 1950s, a buried pipeline supplied a fueling station, consisting of four aboveground tanks and four underground tanks. A major leak in the pipeline was discovered when high tide brought gasoline to the surface, releasing hydrocarbon fumes. Recovery wells were installed to pump out the gasoline. The site is now used as a parking lot.

SITE LOCATIONS AT NAS NORTH ISLAND ▼



SITE LEGEND

1. Shoreline Sediments
2. Old Spanish Bight Landfill
3. Golf Course Chemical Rinse Area
4. Public Works Salvage Yard
5. Golf Course Garbage Disposal Area
6. Heritage Park Public Works Salvage Yard
7. Building 39 Runoff Catchment Area
8. Weapons Center Bombing Range*
9. Chemical Waste Disposal Area
10. DRMO Property Disposal Area
11. IWTP Storage Area
12. Buried Gasoline Supply Pipe Leak

* Determined not to be a hazardous waste site, eliminated as an IR Program site.

Information Repositories

Additional information and environmental reports regarding the Installation Restoration Program at NAS North Island are available for public review at two information repositories:

NAS North Island Base Library Building 650 (619) 545-8231	Mon-Thurs: 10:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m	Fri-Sat-Sun: 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Coronado Public Library 640 Orange Avenue Coronado, CA 92118-1526 (619) 522-7390	Mon-Tue: 10:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m Fri-Sat: 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.	Wed-Thurs: 1:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m Sun: 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

For More Information:

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NAVAL AIR STATION
NORTH ISLAND

Public Affairs Office
Code OB
P.O. Box 357033
San Diego, CA 92135-7033

PUBLIC MEETING

Formation of
Restoration Advisory Board
for
Naval Air Station North Island

June 22, 1994 - 6:30 pm
Coronado Public Library

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